

# Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization



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### **Tracking Impacts of Welfare Reform in the Phillips Neighborhood: Food Shelves, Child Care and Housing**

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A Preliminary Report

Tracking Impacts of Welfare Reform in the Phillips Neighborhood:

Food Shelves, Child Care and Housing

by

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sponsored by

Minneapolis Human Services Network, Phillips Community Futures Coalition, and  
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## Executive Summary

President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act in 1996. This federal legislation focuses on time-limited assistance (a maximum of five years) and mandatory work requirements as the solution for getting people off welfare and becoming self-sufficient. It will be important to keep abreast of impacts of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Minnesota's version of welfare reform, as they develop.

The national trend of less government and more partnership is making data collection at a local level increasingly important. However, few resources and networks exist to provide comprehensive and comparable information at local levels.

This research has revealed potential starting points for collecting neighborhood data around MFIP impacts on food shelves, child care, and housing.

**Food Shelves** The Urban Coalition in partnership with the Minnesota Food Shelf Association and the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has been collecting quarterly food shelf data for 15 years. This data includes information on pounds of food distributed, numbers of households served, and numbers of persons served. Food shelves in Phillips are included in their database. Also, the Minnesota Food Shelf Association is conducting a two-year survey of welfare reform impacts on food shelves which began September 1997. Final results will be disclosed in June 1999.

**Child Care** Welfare reform will definitely increase the numbers of young low-income children who are in need of child care. Locating affordable child care which matches work schedules of low-income parents will be particularly difficult (ie. evening, weekend, and rotating/changing schedules.) Although the most utilized form of child care, informal care is the most difficult to track. The Early Childhood Resource and Referral Center has a network of 33 licensed providers who meet regularly as the Phillips Early Learning Collaborative. They are willing to support tracking impacts of welfare reform on child care.

**Housing** It is difficult to separate effects of welfare reform on housing from problems with general affordability and quality. In addition to affordability and quality, a host of other issues such as lead-based paint, vacant and boarded housing, and increasing home ownership have higher priority in the neighborhood than housing impacts from welfare reform. The Phillips Community Housing Community and Project for Pride In Living may be potential hosts for future neighborhood discussion of housing and MFIP.

**General Host for Welfare Reform Issues in the Phillips Neighborhood** The Phillips Community Futures Coalition (CFC), formerly known as the Phillips Lifespan Committee has specified welfare reform as one of its main priorities for Phillips. Aside from sponsoring the research for this report, this group has been hosting monthly meetings around welfare reform issues and topics specific to the Phillips neighborhood.

#### **Recommendations for Future Data Collection**

- There is a need to improve comparability of data across state and local databases.
- Methods of monitoring MFIP impacts must be based upon a shared set of key indicators amongst neighborhoods.
- Choosing key indicators/variables with an asset orientation will be important.
- Qualitative tracking methods will be important.
- Interdisciplinary research is valuable.
- Community organizing is important for comprehensive data collection at a neighborhood level.
- It is important for “professionals” to “give back” to the community when “extracting information.”
- There is a need for determining effective incentives for collaborative research, barriers to cross-agency development and ways to encourage continued dialogue rather than one-time collaboration on single studies.
- Data collection efforts need to consider how classism, sexism, and racism will shape the implementation of any recommendations.

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## *Preface*

This research project results from a collaborative effort between the Minneapolis Human Service Network, the Phillips Community Futures Coalition (formerly known as the Phillips Lifespan Committee) and the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR). Building upon a study completed in June 1997 by Oriane Casales entitled, "Welfare Reform and the Phillips Neighborhood: Areas of Concern," these groups came together in their request and support of a research assistant to help begin to understand the realities of welfare reform. Data collection for this report began in October 1997. One of the main goals of the project was to learn of existing resources and networks in the Phillips Neighborhood in three pre-determined priority service areas: food shelves, child care and housing. This information would help aid the understanding of the potential for future tracking of welfare reform at a neighborhood level. Preliminary data gathering was challenging and time consuming for several reasons. Aside from the research assistant being unfamiliar with the neighborhood, groups which pledged to serve the neighborhood or even certain subgroups as a whole had limited data and resources specific to welfare reform, and social service and community workers were generally not ready to have a discussion of potential impacts of welfare reform in the neighborhood. Other more immediate needs like crime, safety, substandard housing, health access, and school learning environments, seemed to have higher priority in neighborhood discussions.

Generally speaking, research was primarily based upon existing macro-level (state, county, city) resources and several one-on-one informational interviews with various social service providers/community workers in the neighborhood. Although many innovative social service projects/programs operate within the neighborhood with some collaboration between groups, for purposes of tracking welfare reform impacts, existing networks are fundamentally limited. Current networks in the neighborhood are not inclusive of all who could be valuable informants of welfare reform effects.

## Preliminary Report: Tracking Impacts of Welfare Reform in the Phillips Neighborhood

### ***Introduction***

Minnesota's version of welfare reform, the Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide (MFIP-S), officially came into effect on January 1, 1998. Beginning in March, sanctions for non-compliance with the new program began. Community-wide efforts to monitor impacts of MFIP-S on state, county, city and even neighborhood levels have begun as well. In June of 1997, Oriane Casale completed a study on potential impacts of welfare reform specific to the Phillips Neighborhood. One of several recommendations from her report, "Welfare Reform and the Phillips Neighborhood: Areas of Concern," included applying for a research assistant to work with social service agencies in the neighborhood to track impacts of welfare reform. Quantitative tracking as well as collection of anecdotal accounts were one recommended strategy. With the support of the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPRC), the Phillips Community Futures Coalition (formerly known as the Phillips Neighborhood Lifespan committee) and the Minneapolis Human Services Network (MHSN) decided to proceed with this recommendation. Due to time restrictions and limited resources, three service areas which are believed to be most important to the neighborhood were chosen for study. These three areas include: food shelves, child care, and housing.

The information in this report is preliminary and is only one small piece of the complex welfare reform puzzle. Obviously, tracking welfare reform impacts must be inclusive of other service areas which are not covered in this report, such as transportation, job training, employment, education, health, etc. It is the author's hope that this information will help guide others to create more comprehensive tracking methods at a neighborhood level which can provide policy makers with important information to make informed decisions.

### ***The Evolution of the Need for Neighborhood Data***

Collecting neighborhood specific data is a current trend nationwide. This is evident in the creation of such massive efforts such as the National Neighborhood

Indicators Project (NNIP) sponsored by the Urban Institute. This project is a multi-year initiative designed to develop indicators of the changing social, physical, and economic conditions of neighborhoods in America's cities and to apply them in support of comprehensive community building. There are a few main reasons for this current trend which include devolution and less government.

### ***Less Government, More Partnerships***

The 1990s has witnessed bipartisan support that local stakeholders are in a better position than Federal and State officials to plan and implement most local development and social service delivery strategies (Urban Institute 1996). It is no longer local government's sole responsibility to take on local initiatives. Since 1980, there has been a commitment to less government. As a result, new local non-government institutions have developed. Examples include neighborhood-level improvement efforts (ie. Neighborhood Revitalization Program) and various metropolitan-wide leadership coalitions and networks. These groups were not created to replace local governments. They were meant to work collaboratively with these local groups.

### ***Need for Better Neighborhood Information***

As a result of these trends, many local leaders are recognizing an urgent need for an improved information base at a neighborhood level. This type of information is essential to guide the design and implementation of effective strategies.

While data from the U.S. Census are an important resource, they are updated only once every 10 years, making efforts like monitoring trends between censuses difficult for neighborhoods. Currently, there is a lack of adequate information and/or comprehensive coordinated networks at a neighborhood level to effectively address growing concerns regarding unprecedented changes like welfare reform. Scarce resources for urban and social programs most likely exaggerate this deficit.

However, there is considerable information on local participants in public assistance programs such as: Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), food

stamps, general assistance, Medicaid, Women Infants and Children (WIC), and subsidized child care available at the neighborhood level.

### ***Tracking MFIP Impacts at a Macro-level***

At a macro-level, there are some comprehensive tracking efforts in progress, some of which include residents of the Phillips Neighborhood, but are not exclusively focused upon them. These efforts are being organized by both government and non-government groups.

#### ***Government Efforts***

The Minnesota Department of Human Services is doing the most comprehensive evaluation of MFIP. They are currently in the process of evaluating the MFIP field trials. Impacts on employment, poverty and child well-being (psychological well-being, stability and turbulence, absent parent involvement, use of certain services, consumption/ how income is spent, child care, home environment and parenting, education outcomes, health and safety outcomes, social and emotional adjustment) will be examined (Minnesota Department of Human Services 1997). They are also conducting a five to seven year longitudinal study of MFIP families to determine its effectiveness. Major tracking activities include: *monitoring client outcomes* in promoting employment, alleviating poverty, and reducing dependence on welfare as a primary source of income; *monitoring client progress* by studying changing status of participants, outcomes other than employment, those who are "hard to serve," and those who use diversion assistance; *monitoring service delivery* around diversion, orientation, financial worker roles, employment services and those exempted from work requirements (Minnesota Department of Human Services 1997). Hennepin County will also be studying effects on clients, county services, budgeting and planning.

#### ***Non-government Efforts***

The Children's Defense Fund is collecting qualitative reports on current issues for clients based upon community providers. They would also like to be a clearinghouse for

research projects from other agencies. Catholic Charities has developed a survey for their staff to track changes in client needs and coordination of services with welfare reform on a bi-weekly/monthly basis (Appendix A). The Urban Coalition has hosted a gathering of diverse macro-level groups who are tracking welfare reform impacts. The intention was to discuss mechanisms for sharing data between these groups and making it accessible to community-based organizations. However, the Urban Coalition has since received feedback which has suggested that collecting qualitative data might be a more appropriate and useful approach than piecing diverse quantitative data together. Generally speaking, many tracking strategies are still in the developmental stages and are subject to change.

### ***Tracking MFIP Impacts in the Phillips Neighborhood***

#### ***Challenges***

Although there are several comprehensive strategies for data tracking at a macro-level, there are few in place at a neighborhood level. Data related to welfare reform is no exception. Currently, neighborhoods have been recognizing the importance of this capacity and have been demanding neighborhood specific data. There are several challenges of collecting data at this level. Although several community entities are currently monitoring numerous aspects of potential MFIP impacts, most of these efforts do not have financial support and are not comprehensive or coordinated. In general, their goal is to contribute to the big picture with the limited means available to them.

In the Phillips neighborhood, there are few existing networks which cross all organizational boundaries in terms of gathering issue-specific information. Furthermore, many organizations within the neighborhood do not have an existing method of quantifying delivery of services related to welfare reform. However, even when methods of quantification exist within organizations, they seldom match those of other groups.

### *"Perceived" Challenges*

Additional challenges in synthesizing information from diverse groups in the Phillips Neighborhood can be related to particular characteristics of the community. This community has been characterized by high poverty and crime rates, high prevalence of substandard housing, residents with low education and job skill levels, and ever-increasing ethnic diversity with non-traditional needs. Because of these characteristics, the Phillips neighborhood attracts various types of research projects and funding for programs whose actual impacts are questionable by residents as well as those who work in the neighborhood.

Many service providers and community advocates believe the Phillips Neighborhood has been "studied to death" with limited real life improvements for community members. One of the indirect results of this commonly-held perception seems to be a lack of trust for those claiming to "help" or "collaborate." This suspicious context may have contributed to a type of isolation of organizations/other subgroups from each other within the community at large. These circumstances can make true consensus difficult to obtain, even in terms of tracking methods. Nevertheless, some existing networks were discovered in the areas of food shelves, child care and housing, which can serve as the beginnings of a more comprehensive discussion on neighborhood tracking methods of welfare reform.

### *Food Shelves*

Food shelves are an important resource for many low income individuals and families. Often times, rent, utility bills, health care costs and/or child care take precedence over spending money for food (Fang & Rode 1996). An annual report of Minnesota food shelf use by the Urban Coalition cites "low wage jobs, high housing costs, and low benefits in public assistance programs [as] some of the reasons why people seek food aid" (1998). According to the Minnesota Food Shelf Association (MFSA), there are over 300 food shelves serving communities in Minnesota. (For the purposes of this report, "formal" food shelves are defined as those associated with MFSA.) About 1/3 of these formal food shelves are located in the greater metropolitan

area. They are generally operated by non-profits, religious, and volunteer groups. There is great variation in size and capacity of these food shelves. Operating hours range from an on-call basis to 8 hours/day 5 days/week. Many follow strict guidelines which include limitations on number of visits per month or per quarter. Formal food shelves typically serve community members within defined geographic boundaries. Several also serve as a resource for information and referral to social service programs. According to data collected in 1996, 51% of food shelf participants in Minnesota are children and 32% of the families using these food shelves are employed. Also, more than three-quarters (77%) of Minnesota households using food shelves rent their homes (Fang & Rode 1996).

#### *Tracking MFIP Impacts on Food Shelves in the Phillips Neighborhood*

There are numerous food shelves in the Phillips Neighborhood. It is difficult to know exactly how many exist. Great heterogeneity exists among these food shelves. Some are small, some are large, some are registered with MFSA, others are not (informal). Most follow strict guidelines which include limitations on monthly visits, while others have few guidelines. Addresses of participants are required at the majority of food shelves, while they are not at others.

The Urban Coalition in partnership with the Minnesota Food Shelf Association and the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has been collecting quarterly food shelf data for 15 years. This data includes information on: pounds of food distributed, numbers of households served, and numbers of persons served (Appendix B). In regards to the Phillips Neighborhood, they have data on 10 food shelves which they are inclined to share with neighborhood tracking efforts. The Minnesota Food Shelf Association is also in the process of conducting a two-year survey of welfare reform impacts on food shelves which began in September of 1997. Final survey results are anticipated to be disclosed to the public in June of 1999 (Appendix C).

#### *Child Care*

American families' dependence upon child care has increased significantly in the past 30 years. In 1995, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



found more than two-thirds of all infants receive non-parental child care during the first year of life, with most enrolled for about 30 hours each week." The role of child care is changing from one of providing a supplemental service to that which is more central to children's development. This has important implications for the well-being of children, particularly since recent research has emphasized the importance of children's early experiences to future development.

### *Challenges of Formal Child Care*

The quality of existing child care providers is a concern for many parents. A study conducted in 1995 of 400 child care centers found that the care provided did not meet children's needs for health, safety, warm relationships, and learning. "Only 14 percent of centers received a rating of developmentally appropriate, while 12 percent were found to be of such poor quality that basic sanitary conditions were not met, children's safety was endangered, or caregivers offered little or no response to children's efforts to communicate; 40 percent of infant or toddler rooms were observed to offer poor-quality care (Phillips & Bridgman 1995).

There are many possible factors for low quality care. Perhaps the most important factor is that child care workers generally receive low-wages. This often results in high turnover rates and inadequately skilled staff, particularly for those with cultural and special needs. The Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals (AECPP) and St. Cloud State University graduate student Joy Lien conducted the 1995 Early Childhood Workforce Study which found "...an average teacher wage of \$8.82 with an annual turnover rate of 28 percent... assistant teachers earned \$6.66 and turned over at a rate of 41 percent, while aides made \$5.69 and left their jobs at a rate of 45 percent" (Junge 1998).

Expensive costs of child care among formal providers is another challenge for parents. According to a study conducted by the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association (GMDCA) in 1995, typical child care costs consume 23 percent of a low-income family's budget (Bell 1995).

A third challenge of utilizing formal providers is that care is generally not offered during non-traditional hours (Casale 1997; Phillips & Bridgman 1995). This has strong implications since in 1995, "one-third of working-poor mothers work on weekends...another 8 to 9 percent of working-poor mothers work evenings or night, and almost half of working-poor parents work on rotating or changing schedules" (Phillips & Bridgman 1995). MFIP parents, whose work hours will be similar to those of the working-poor, will find difficulties locating child care that matches their work schedules as well.

### *Challenges of Informal Child Care*

Due to the challenges of formal care, many parents turn to informal child care (family members, friends, neighbors, etc.) options. The 1990 National Child Care Survey revealed the main child care arrangement of low-income children under age 5 as parents (48%.) Twenty-two percent were cared for by relatives, and 2% were cared for "in-home" (Appendix D). Thus, a total of 72% of those surveyed utilized informal child care arrangements for their children (Brayfield et al. 1993). Aside from being less expensive, parents often perceive these options as being more safe, caring and trustworthy.

Although the most utilized, inattention to informal child care continues to be a prevailing trend in public policy and research. However, in the early 1990s, the Work Family Institute conducted the Study of Family and Relative Care in New York (Swenson-Klatt 1998). This study examined quality of care with short-term child well-being outcomes. One major finding was that lower levels of quality care were associated with family and relative care verses formal care. One of the reasons cited was that family members often cared for children to help the parent(s) more than to help the child. Whereas, efforts of formal providers are exclusively focused upon the child. Researchers also concluded that low-income relative caregivers tend to live under the same poor socioeconomic conditions as the children. Thus, making quality of care less than care offered by formal providers.

Regardless of the type of care utilized, unstable child care is the reality for most poor and low-income families (Bridgman & Phillips 1996). A Greater Minneapolis Day

Care Association (GMDCA) study found that many children on Hennepin County's Child Care Sliding Fee assistance waiting list are "deprived of consistent, stable care and appropriate early childhood education." They predict that "...this may result in the inability to form healthy, strong relationships that are the foundation needed for success in school and life."

Welfare reform will further increase the numbers of young low-income children who are in need of child care (Bridgman & Phillips 1996). Successful transitions from welfare to work will require good quality child care which parents believe is safe, reliable, and trustworthy (Bell 1995; Phillips & Bridgman 1995). Without adequate funding to support and increase the capacity of child care providers, existing providers may become overwhelmed. There is a potential for increased child neglect, abuse, and unsupervised youth.

#### *Past and Current Child Care Research and Policy Trends*

Before discussing monitoring strategies for welfare reform impacts on child care, it is important to understand past and current child care research and policy trends. Future child care projects and programs are often based upon these trends. A comprehensive discussion is beyond the scope of this report. However, there are some prevailing themes to note. As Mary Junge writes in *The Minnesota Women's Press*, "Supportive systems for working parents, including quality child care that is affordable and accessible, have developed agonizingly slowly, if at all" (1998). Balancing work and family remains a continuous struggle in America today as it was in 1898 (Junge 1998). Although federal subsidies for child care have improved dramatically in present years, it remains inadequate to serve all who are eligible for support. Despite these increased federal monies towards access, little has gone towards improving quality which has historically been given lowest priority by policy makers.

Another trend of child care research is that it often characterizes child care as a single arrangement at one point in time, when it is actually more complex and dynamic. It is common for children to have more than one type of arrangement in any given period of time. In 1995, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found

that a third of all infants in the United States experience at least three different child care arrangements in the first year of life schedules (Bridgman & Phillips 1996).

Furthermore, most research on child care has examined the influence of child care apart from other influences in children's lives such as "... home environments, neighborhoods, and access to health care." This narrow concept of child care neglects some of the most pervasive influences on children, which are also elements of child care.

Thirdly, current and past research seldom incorporates policy issues or questions. This is a distinct difference from research on related issues like Head Start, early childhood education, youth development, and after-school care, which often incorporate policy perspectives (Bridgman & Phillips 1996). With the current trends of child care use, there is a definite need to tie child care research to public policy as well.

As mentioned earlier, inattention to informal child care continues to be a prevailing trend in research and policy. This has serious implications when researchers, advocates and service providers predict that informal child care (family members, friends, neighbors, etc.) will be the most utilized type with the onset of welfare reform.

#### *Future Child Care Research and Policy Needs*

Future child care studies need to be linked to related policy issues. More accurate portrayals of influences on child care have to include nontraditional units of analysis such as family (siblings), community, peer groups, school, etc. It is also important to find ways to support legally unlicensed and informal child care providers (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) who will arguably bear most of the initial, if not continuous burden of welfare reform. Future studies can determine strategies for increasing the quality of informal child care. Some mechanisms might include: training, regulation, consumer education, accreditation, and improved provider compensation (Bridgman & Phillips 1996).

A cost-benefit analysis similar to those applied to early intervention programs could help policy makers, the greater community, and others to better understand the returns to the community of investing in child care (Bridgman & Phillips 1996).

### *Tracking MFIP Impacts on Child Care in the Phillips Neighborhood*

As alluded to earlier, child care has certain aspects which make it particularly difficult to monitor. Currently, child care exists as three main types: licensed, legally unlicensed, and informal. There are resources available at the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning and Hennepin County to track licensed and legally unlicensed child care providers who receive subsidies. However, the greatest difficulty is that there are no existing methods of tracking informal providers who are not part of any system or network, but represent the most utilized form of child care. Currently, it is more feasible to track licensed and legally unlicensed providers (Appendix E).

In order to assess the true impact of welfare reform on child care, it will be important for local providers and other sources of information to identify a few common key child care variables which can facilitate comparisons among their diverse programs. Simultaneously tracking families' child care arrangements and their progress toward work-related goals of self-sufficiency programs over time will be particularly important (Bridgman & Phillips 1996).

The Early Childhood Resource and Referral Center has a network of 33 licensed child care providers in South Minneapolis called the Phillips Early Learning Collaborative. This group meets regularly and is willing to help support tracking impacts of welfare reform in the Phillips Neighborhood.

### *Shortage of Affordable Housing*

Currently, there is an extreme shortage of affordable housing in the Twin Cities area. Housing is usually considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of one's annual income. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, 185,000 households with annual incomes below \$30,000 pay more than this for housing. There are 68,900 renter households with annual incomes below \$10,000 in the metropolitan area, but only 31,200 housing units with rents affordable at this income level. (Kids Mobility Project 1998).

To help address this fundamental need, the Jobs and Affordable Housing Campaign in Minneapolis, which is currently housed by Family and Children's Services, was created. This campaign, which originated with residents in the Whittier

neighborhood, presents an invaluable opportunity for future partnerships and collaboration around housing issues. It is an existing broad base network of individuals, groups, and professional organizations pushing for the city to build more affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing and replace demolished affordable housing in the metropolitan area.

The lack of affordable housing impacts those receiving public assistance the hardest (Family Housing Fund Public Education Initiative; Miller et al 1997). "A parent with two children receiving public assistance cannot afford a typical two-bedroom apartment without subsidies – even if they spend their entire grants on rent" (Family Housing Fund Public Education Initiative).

#### *Current Housing Effects on Minneapolis Children*

The shortage of affordable housing results in frequent moves for low-income individuals and families (Kids Mobility Project 1998). Minneapolis parents surveyed in the Kids Mobility Project, a study of mobility effects on children grades 1-6 in Minneapolis Public Schools, attribute their children's problems with behavior, emotions, self-esteem, and friends to the stress of frequent moves (Kids Mobility Project 1998).

Research has also shown school attendance to be a strong predictor of performance. The less students move, the better their attendance and performance. According to the Kids Mobility Project, "Mobility affects one in five Minneapolis students... Average reading scores for students who moved three or more times were half those of students who did not move." Some major conclusions of this study of 6,098 students include:

- Twenty-one percent of the students moved during the 6 ½ months of the study
- Students of color moved far more often than white students (nearly 1 in 3 African American, Hispanic, and American Indian/Native American students moved at least once, while 1 in 6 Asian students moved)
- Low-income students were more likely to move (1 in 4 moved at least once)
- Students not living with both parents moved more often (1 in 3 moved)

Most families move because they cannot secure quality, affordable housing (Kids Mobility Project 1998). Researchers of the Kids Mobility Project found strong evidence of relationships between, "family instability, lack of housing, frequent moves, school attendance and school performance." Other research by Professor Samuel Myers of the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, reinforces the correlation between attendance and performance on the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests in Reading and Mathematics.

#### *Next Steps for Tracking Welfare Reform Impacts on Housing in the Phillips Neighborhood*

Of the three service areas, housing was the most complex. Aside from the affordable housing crisis, a broad-base of housing issues exists in the neighborhood. These range from lead-based paint and vacant/boarded housing to increasing home ownership. Discussions specific to welfare reform impacts on housing seem virtually non-existent among the countless housing entities in the neighborhood, city, county, and state. This is not difficult to understand while fundamental housing needs of affordability and quality remain unmet in Minneapolis. At this point, it is difficult to separate effects of welfare reform on housing from problems with general affordability and quality.

In general, transitional housing and homeless groups including the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) seem the most organized and resourceful in terms of possessing information related to welfare reform, particularly since one of their primary tasks is to assess participants' resources and help stabilize their situations. It is important to note that these efforts are not focused upon the Phillips Neighborhood. However, many transitional housing groups including Elim Transitional Housing are collecting some new information related to welfare reform on their intake applications which they are willing to share with the neighborhood tracking efforts.

Although there are several housing entities represented in the Phillips neighborhood, few are charged with the mission to represent the entire neighborhood.

The Phillips Community Housing Committee is one housing group which functions on the neighborhood's behalf. However, like many others, they are currently focused upon "vacant" and boarded houses. The Project for Pride In Living (PPL) might be a more appropriate group to host tracking efforts. Although they have expressed interest in beginning a discussion among housing entities in the neighborhood specific to MFIP impacts on housing, planning is currently in the preliminary stages.

### ***General Host for Welfare Reform Issues in the Phillips Neighborhood***

The Phillips Community Futures Coalition (CFC), formerly known as the Phillips Lifespan Committee, is a group which has specified welfare reform as one of its main priorities for Phillips. CFC is charged with the mission to "...develop a way for organizations to rethink how they serve the neighborhood and develop ways to improve the current system. It is funded through the Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP) process to address neighborhood frustration with the perceived fragmentation of the service system currently operating in the Phillips neighborhood." Aside from sponsoring the research for this report, this group has been hosting monthly meetings around welfare reform issues and topics specific to the Phillips neighborhood.

### ***Recommendations for Future Data Collection***

**There is a great need to improve comparability of data across state and local databases.** The Urban Coalition has taken preliminary steps to do this specific to welfare reform. It can also be helpful to look for existing models in other fields such as health care. For example, Massachusetts and Washington have statewide data systems and data reporting requirements which enable them to monitor health care at multiple and cross-agency levels (Durch 1994).

**A method of monitoring welfare reform impacts based upon a shared set of key indicators amongst neighborhoods** would be ideal since these boundaries are often artificial. For example, a Phillips resident may use services in Whittier and vice versa.



Monitoring efforts *do not need to be identical*, but should share certain key indicators, while still allowing room for expression of unique neighborhood characteristics.

**Choosing key indicators or variables which have an asset orientation will be important.** Traditional data sources are deficit oriented and needs-driven. Not only does this produce a limited perspective of various issues, but it also creates a sense of defeatism when used exclusively. Although this strategy may guarantee survival, it may not lead to community development. This orientation is "...one of the major causes of the sense of hopelessness that pervades discussions about the future of low income neighborhoods" (Kretzmann & McKnight 1993). Traditional data sets can add more asset measures to their data sets which may create more productive and comprehensive approaches to addressing community issues. Asset-based means starting with what is present in the community (capacities of residents, workers, institutions, etc. ), not with what is absent, problematic, or with what the community needs.

In 1993, Ken Meter of the Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis published an asset-oriented report on the Phillips Neighborhood based on the 1990 census. This model holds great potential for shaping a more genuine approach to tracking welfare reform impacts at a neighborhood level. Some examples of indicators with an asset orientation include: skills/talents/experiences of residents, individual/home-based businesses, community businesses, civic, cultural and religious/spiritual groups (Urban Institute 1996). Additional qualities of good indicators as suggested by the Urban Institute in 1996 include the following: data collected must be *timely and routinely gathered (current and readily available)*, *reliable and stable (collected the same way every time)*, *relevant, useful (responds to change quickly and noticeably)*, *understandable (by the user and the public)*, *simple (relatively easy to obtain)*, and *honest (accurate portrayal of the issue)*.

**Although quantitative tracking methods are important, qualitative tracking will be as important for the Phillips Neighborhood which is so large and diverse.**

Historically, issues related to culture and diversity are less apparent in collections of

quantitative data. One-on-one interviews and focus groups might be a more suitable means for tracking true impacts of welfare reform verses traditional survey methods which can be heavily biased by language issues, low literacy levels, etc. University students in social work, public policy, public health, psychology and other related fields are affordable resources for conducting these types of projects since this can help fulfill their graduation requirements.

**There is a need for interdisciplinary research.** Aside from food shelves, child care and housing, welfare reform touches a host of other service areas including: physical and psychological health, transportation, employment, education, etc. These areas are often studied independent of one another. Quality research tries to link areas together and study the interactions between them. This approach is more reflective of reality. Some good examples of interdisciplinary research include a study done by the University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Race and Poverty on housing, segregation and education in the Twin Cities and the Kids Mobility Project on housing and education.

**Community organizing is important for data collection at a neighborhood level.**

There are several forces driving people apart like increasing mobility rates, the separation of work and residence, certain types of mass media, segregation by race and age and increasing dependence upon outside professional helpers (Kretzmann & McKnight 1993). Community organizing is one way to combat this fragmentation. This approach can be helpful for policy makers who commonly complain about deciphering inconsistent, fragmented responses from communities at large.

Effective efforts will require broad-based community representation for purposes of developing a successful comprehensive plan. Representatives from the public and private sectors, academia, churches/spiritual organizations, parents, grandparents, other adults, students including teen-agers, etc. should be included. Providing guides and training materials will be necessary, particularly for community residents (Urban Institute 1996). The Organization of the NorthEast and Howard Area Community Center in Chicago offers welfare workshops as a useful approach for attracting diverse groups of

people who can get their questions answered and join on-going community organizing efforts.

Successful community organizing often requires dispelling personal assumptions/stereotypes and taking time to actively listen to one another and develop relationships. It is important to be flexible in response to resistance and to provide a variety of options. Also, avoiding actions which may be interpreted as exclusionary ones can be crucial. Some examples might include: utilizing unexplained jargon; professions of expertise; controlling knowledge and power; polarization; and urging personal agenda items. (Appendix F).

**It is particularly important for “professionals” to “give back” to the community when “extracting information.”** Neglecting this important piece can create further distrust and deteriorate future partnerships, thus limiting effective solutions. “Giving back” does not have to be anything elaborate. Some examples might include: allowing community input throughout data collection processes; providing community members with copies of any final reports; connecting people with needed services and/or resources; providing opportunities for community members to learn various new skills (i.e. facilitating meetings, recording minutes, etc.), providing snacks and/or beverages at meetings, sponsoring a picnic, etc.

**There is a need for determining effective incentives for collaborative research, barriers to the cross-agency development, and ways to encourage continued dialogue rather than one-time collaborations on single studies.**

**Finally, all data collection efforts need to seriously consider how classism, sexism, and racism will shape the implementation of any recommendations.**

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## **How is "Welfare Reform Working"?** **Client Needs and Coordination of Services**

### **A Request to Catholic Charities Staff**

#### **Why we need your input?**

- ✦ We know that the current welfare legislation has its good and bad points. But we need to document what those good and bad points are. We want to let the policy makers know what we, as service providers, experience. What is positive and where are the gaps?
- ✦ You are the most credible witnesses because of your direct contact with those in need.
- ✦ This information will be used in public testimony before the legislature and county commissioners.

#### **What we need you to do?**

- ✦ On a bi-weekly or monthly basis, fill in the parts of this form that are applicable to your experience.

It is not necessary to do a form for each client, we are asking for your general perceptions at the end of a specific time period regarding your experiences with people.

Not all of the questions will be relevant to your program. Leave them blank unless something obvious strikes you.

- ✦ Fax the form to Kathy Tomlin at 290-1628.

#### **What will we do with this information?**

- ✦ A member of the OSJ staff will collate the material in an effort to gather data. We are particularly interested in documenting the gaps.
- ✦ This data will be used to guide our policy decisions at the legislature for 1998 and 1999. It will help us know what areas of need we should focus upon.
- ✦ Other social service agencies, like Lutheran Social Services, will be doing the same thing. We will be able to compare our information with theirs. It will help us compile the evidence.



## What Is Going on with Welfare Reform?

Dates included in this report: \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. # of clients seen: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

### Number of Clients (Check those selections which apply.)

- ☐ We are seeing more clients.
- ☐ We are now seeing a different type of client (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Clients are being sanctioned.  
This is what I see happening with people who aren't meeting the standards of the new welfare law: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Residency requirements have affected people moving to Minnesota.  
This what I see happening to new residents: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ The reasons clients give for their move to Minnesota include: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Clients have expanded needs in the following areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> food	<input type="checkbox"/> physical health care	<input type="checkbox"/> legal representation	<input type="checkbox"/> child care
<input type="checkbox"/> shelter/housing	<input type="checkbox"/> mental health care	<input type="checkbox"/> language	<input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence
<input type="checkbox"/> work training/support	<input type="checkbox"/> chemical dependency	<input type="checkbox"/> citizenship classes	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other

### The primary reason for these expanded needs:

<input type="checkbox"/> insufficient grant amount	<input type="checkbox"/> can't keep a job	<input type="checkbox"/> low wage	<input type="checkbox"/> other
<input type="checkbox"/> grant sanctions	<input type="checkbox"/> food stamp cuts	<input type="checkbox"/> not eligible for services	

### Delivery of Services (Please explain if necessary.)

- ☐ Clients have received incorrect information regarding eligibility:
- ☐ Clients are asking for services they should have received elsewhere:
- ☐ The ability of our clients to pay required service fees is changing:
- ☐ We are receiving referrals from the county that we have not experienced before:

Fax this form to: Kathleen Tomlin at 290-1628

**MFIP**

Dates included in this report

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Service Site \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. # clients seen: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's a problem we see developing with MFIP-S. It concerns:

DHS or other state agency	
County or other public sector provider	
Private Non-profit organization	
A private for-profit organization	

Here are some trends I see developing:

Clients are asking for these services which they feel they need, but which are not provided under MFIP-S law.
There is a new pattern emerging in the length of time it takes people to get service

Here are some positive things I see happening to persons and/or systems with MFIP-S:

--

Fax this form to: Kathleen Tomlin at 290-1628

## What is Going on with Welfare Reform?

Dates included in this report: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ # of clients seen: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### Coordination of Services

\_\_\_\_ County coordination of services has been: \_\_\_\_\_ positive \_\_\_\_\_ negative:

\_\_\_\_ Non-profit agency coordination of services has been \_\_\_\_\_ positive \_\_\_\_\_ negative:

\_\_\_\_ For-profit agency coordination of service has been \_\_\_\_\_ positive \_\_\_\_\_ negative:

### County Partnerships

Our experience with county partnerships has been: \_\_\_\_\_ Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

This is our experience in working with the county in providing and/or planning services:

### Foundation Partnerships

Our experience with foundation partnerships has been: \_\_\_\_\_ Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

This is our experience in partnering with a foundation in providing and/or planning services:

### Business Partnerships

Our experience with business partnerships has been: \_\_\_\_\_ Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

This is our experience working with the business community in providing and/or planning services:

## 1997 FOOD SHELF USE IN MINNESOTA

SHELF	CITY/TOWN	CC	1ST QTR			2ND QTR			3RD QTR			4TH QTR		
			INDIV.	HSGLDS	POUNDS	INDIV.	HSGLDS	POUNDS	INDIV.	HSGLDS	POUNDS	INDIV.	HSGLDS	POUNDS
Alexandra House	Circle Pines	2	49	21	437	55	18	485	50	13	350	46	16	600
Aliveness Proj	Minneapolis	27	483	233	6627	601	282	8074	602	269	7648	714	308	9499
ACBC	Anoka	2	3252	850	64483	2877	792	58716	2641	765	55639	3745	938	68669
Annandale	Annandale	86	334	105	7516	312	90	6060	393	106	6715	658	177	12431
Big Lake	Big Lake	71	465	134	6987	497	137	7015	465	129	7245	460	129	9324
Branch I	Minneapolis	27	4775	1538	50884	4627	1502	49101	4633	1434	45893	6155	1871	60231
Branch II	Minneapolis	27	1234	687	29357	1174	848	29730	1162	812	26991	2387	1300	34515
Brian Coyle	Minneapolis	27	2216	912	26128	1872	791	22640	1693	693	21056	1842	862	26390
Buffalo	Buffalo	86	773	237	9741	736	217	8795	697	195	8159	683	299	11534
CAER	Elk River	71	1713	463	23043	1669	435	21968	1619	442	23462	2814	783	38296
Calvary Luth Ch	Minneapolis	27	854	269	10998	898	325	13146	888	286	10152	970	300	13137
CAP	Minneapolis	27	7729	1197	76676	8482	1316	83172	9072	1386	87319	9759	1435	112852
Care&Share House	Minneapolis	27	511	147	6604	549	155	7185	580	164	7530	597	180	8893
CEAP- Hennepin	Brooklyn Center	27	1944	593	31136	1574	526	34593	1705	571	32319	5184	1364	39615
Cedar Riverside	Minneapolis	27										0	0	0
CEAP-Anoka	Blaine	2	2785	848	54145	2425	744	50640	2520	775	37719	3577	1227	40819
Centro Chicano	Minneapolis	27	594	233	11160	627	186	12520	325	98	6500	336	104	5320
Comm Emer Svc-CES	Minneapolis	27	1966	814	23059	1437	712	20341	1674	685	21223	1869	745	19758
Centennial Comm	Circle Pines	2	1362	352	16301	1281	333	14125	1286	323	12965	2053	573	21388
Cross	Osseo	27	876	315	18460	881	337	16055	1003	289	19435	1812	526	35490
Crossroads Covenant	Columbus Township	2	364	114	7193	388	116	7105	389	104	7335	556	149	8448
Delano	Delano	86	336	103	4815	320	93	4118	276	90	4032	589	164	8219
Div. of Indian Work	Minneapolis	27	2118	524	36810	1882	441	35000	1655	430	32750	2430	638	37010
Friends for Life	Watertown	10	331	100	8620	312	95	9448	339	102	8887	616	153	12717
Groveland	Minneapolis	27	2537	1417	38607	2843	1601	45605	2789	1543	43622	2792	1550	47739
Hanover Food Shelf	Hanover	86	1364	394	23624	1225	352	21564	1213	363	23287	2449	653	35978
ICA	Minnetonka	27	890	337	9411	790	288	21532	939	306	24031	2303	750	38121
Interfaith Outreach	Wayzata	27	5968	1492	58695	4705	1712	63087	5405	1612	59089	4699	2188	71494
Joyce	Minneapolis	27	4359	1337	63346	4455	1415	61160	4147	1271	55442	4365	1286	60504
Little Brothers	Minneapolis	27	16	16	229	42	39	469	41	39	495	124	95	975
Little Earth	Minneapolis	27	957	323	8676	1183	402	12543	1212	414	12571	1513	490	14846
Maple Plain	Maple Plain	27	90	28	1383	101	35	1479	163	49	2086	145	46	2169
Minnehaha	Minneapolis	27	2244	577	22137	1908	485	19528	1955	520	21135	2010	563	22167
Monticello	Monticello	86	567	161	18733	423	126	13722	480	141	12752	1814	537	35783
NCCS	Minneapolis	27	3793	1143	65544	3366	1038	57322	2836	912	49528	2158	753	46982
NEAR	Crystal	27	1484	505	30600	1767	527	33172	1310	489	30280	2003	583	31292
NEED	Minneapolis	27	3999	1062	59060	3191	834	37674	2757	808	29376	1931	556	23981
North Anoka	Cedar	2	774	208	22615	866	227	39420	569	156	27740	768	318	21200
Pastor Paul's	Minneapolis	27	27824	7258	1055562	30166	7795	1128634	27546	7185	1018296	28885	7451	1059229
Pilot City	Minneapolis	27	11032	2857	68762	12404	3208	78092	13020	3295	75470	13856	3447	103405
PRISM	New Hope	27	1279	416	31441	1336	431	33366	1287	432	34855	2247	737	36040
PROP	Eden Prairie	27	482	139	11062	485	147	10297	541	155	9964	2305	797	30420
Sabathani	Minneapolis	27	6073	2353	92312	5933	2311	86699	6512	2467	94288	6851	2882	126160
So. Anoka-SACA	Columbia Heights	2	2473	853	54080	2429	849	52632	2631	901	54192	4909	1746	93627
St. John Assumption	Belle Plain	70	197	54	4925	129	42	3225	140	38	3500	320	83	6650
Salv Army North	Minneapolis	27	1892	546	20023	1537	538	17360	1223	408	15758	13693	4067	101348
Salv Army South	Minneapolis	27	1795	679	19323	1870	592	19263	1892	456	25638	16617	4560	117705
Scott-Carver	Carver	10	4505	1269	77325	4175	1314	105375	3535	1013	88400	6232	1986	96081
Senior FS	Minneapolis	27	5229	5229	64947	5457	5457	76289	4817	4817	65502	4957	4885	91156
Simpson	Minneapolis	27	997	322	15643	814	277	12752	753	255	10224	735	244	11543
STEP	St. Louis Park	27	1623	576	26920	1718	589	26634	2005	672	33122	3204	1021	47629
Teamsters	Minneapolis	27	2493	676	108160	1988	593	94880	2298	578	92480	2337	631	102400
VEAP	Richfield	27	5172	1841	95169	5183	1769	97726	5486	1840	98572	6620	2190	107955
Westonka	Westonka	27	542	190	15501	486	179	14384	484	173	14432	1316	441	28310
Wright Comm Action	Waverly	86	217	63	3685	158	43	3033	262	68	2425	488	144	5310
<b>GREATER MINNEAPOLIS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>139931</b>	<b>45110</b>	<b>2718680</b>	<b>138609</b>	<b>45706</b>	<b>2808950</b>	<b>135915</b>	<b>43537</b>	<b>2619876</b>	<b>194498</b>	<b>61921</b>	<b>3315275</b>

# Appendix C

Food Shelf ID #: «ID» Region: «Region»

Batch: 3 Date: May 98

Please assist the Minnesota Food Shelf Association in understanding the impact of welfare changes and the effect it has on food shelves by filling out this survey.

Your answers will be kept confidential and will not be used to discriminate in the service you receive.

This is a voluntary form and will not impact your ability to receive food from the food shelf.

1. Are you? ☐ Female ☐ Male

2. What race or ethnic background do you consider yourself? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ a. American Indian ☐ b. African American  
☐ c. White ☐ d. Asian /Pacific Islander  
☐ e. Hispanic/Latino ☐ f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which applies to you? (Check one)

- ☐ a. U.S. citizen  
☐ b. legal immigrant

4. Which of these best describes the type of household you live in?

- ☐ a. I live alone  
☐ b. Two parents with children under 18  
☐ c. Two or more adults and no children under 18  
☐ d. One parent with children under 18  
☐ e. Two or more adults with children under 18  
☐ f. Married couple with no children under 18

5. Including yourself, how many people are in your household?

6. In the spaces below, please write in the number of people in your household, including yourself who are:

- a. under 6 years old?  b. age 6 to 17?  
 c. age 18 to 59  d. 60 or older?

7. Please write in the number of adults in your household that:

- a. Have more than one job?   
b. Have one full-time job only?   
c. Have one part-time job only?   
d. Are unemployed?

8. Do you receive child care assistance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. In the spaces below, please write in the number of people in your household, including yourself who are enrolled in any of the programs listed below.

- a. Welfare (AFDC or MFIP-S):   
b. SSI:  c. GA:   
d. Food Stamps:  e. WIC:   
f. None

10. Have you or has anyone in your household been cut off from food stamps in 1998?

- ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

11. Have you or has anyone in your household been notified that you will be cut off from food stamps?

- a. Yes ☐ b. When will benefits cease? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are you or is anyone in your household required to work to receive food stamps?

- ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

13. Have you or has anyone in your household been cut off from SSI in 1998?

☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

14. Have you or has anyone in your household been notified that you will be cut off from SSI?

a. Yes ☐

b. When will benefits cease? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Please let us know your reasons for using the food shelf (check all that apply):

a. Unable to find work ☐

b. Wages are too low ☐

present wage \$ \_\_\_\_\_/hr.

c. Can not work enough hours at my current job. ☐

d. Food stamps have been cut. ☐

e. Housing is too expensive. ☐

Monthly housing cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

f. Flooding/weather damage ☐

g. Child care costs are too high. ☐

Weekly child care cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

h. Recently moved to Minnesota \_\_\_\_\_

i. Disabled temporary ☐

j. Disabled permanent ☐

k. Retired ☐

l. Other (please explain briefly)

\_\_\_\_\_

16. How many times have you or has anyone in your household used the food shelf in the last 12 months?

a. ☐

17. When was the first time you got food from a food shelf?

☐ a. Today is the first time ☐ b. 1 to 3 months ago

☐ c. 4 months to 7 months ago ☐ d. 7 months to 1 year

☐ e. 1 to 2 years ago ☐ f. More than 2 years ago

18. Does your food shelf meet your needs or do you need to receive more food and/or come more often to your food shelf than for example once a month?

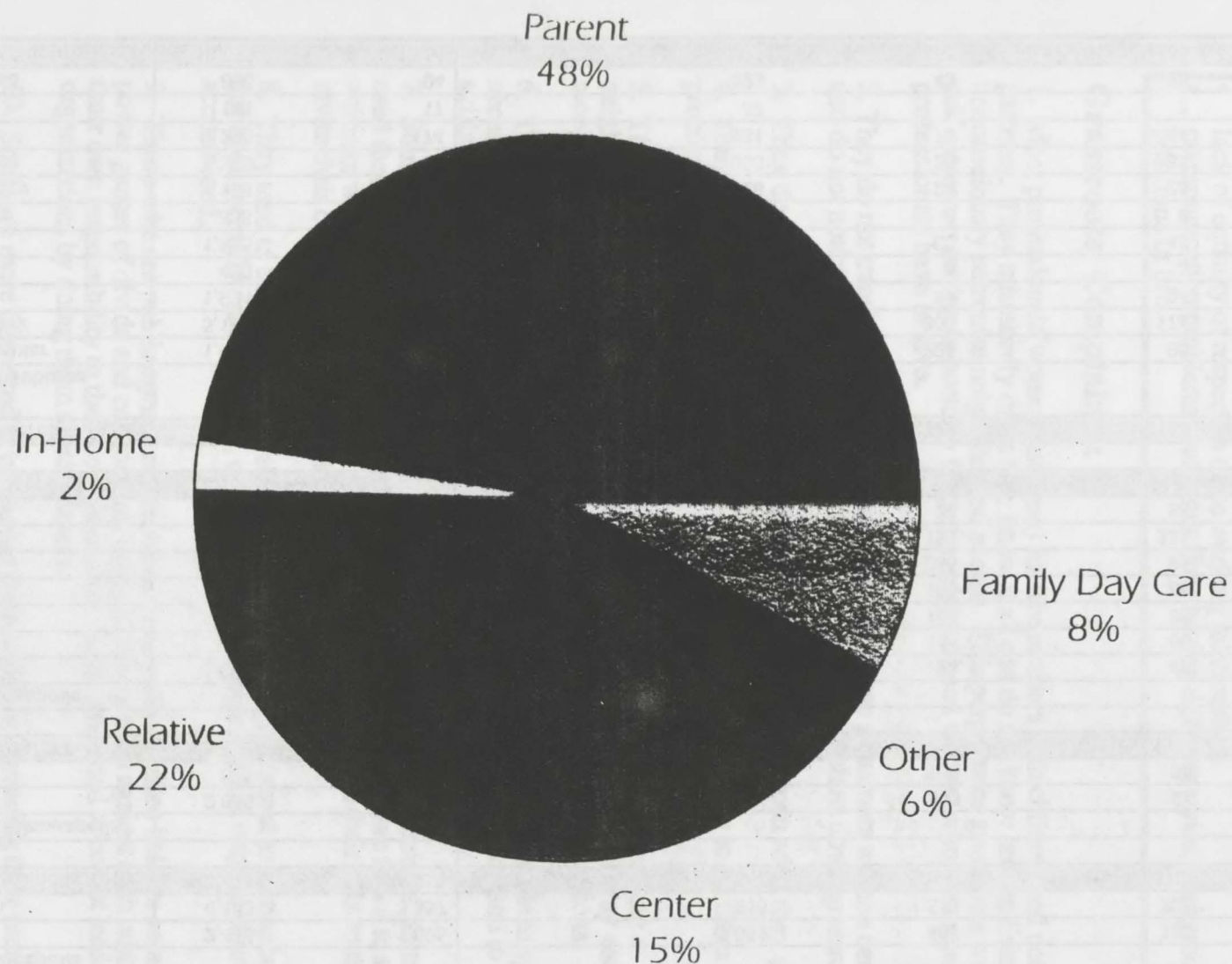
a. More food ☐

b. Come more often ☐

c. Food shelf meets my needs. ☐

19. If you have been receiving government benefits and not receive them in the future, what are your plans for the future?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



National Child Care Survey 1990 and its low-income supplement, from which this figure comes, define low-income families as those with annual incomes below \$15,000.

CE: Adapted from Brayfield et al. (1993). Reprinted with permission.



**PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 0 - 5 NEEDING LICENSED CHILD CARE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY BY JULY 1998**  
Population of Children, Children Receiving AFDC and Number of Children Needing Licensed Child Care

Area	Children Ages 0-5		Number of Children Needing Licensed Child Care				
	Ages 0-5	Receiving AFDC	In Families Currently Working	In AFDC Families	On BSF Waiting List	New Need	Total Need
<b>Minneapolis</b>							
<b>North Minneapolis</b>							
Camden	2,445	1,095	1,031	497	165	661	1,692
Near North	4,183	3,357	916	1,523	205	1,728	2,644
<b>North Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>6,628</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>4,336</b>
<b>Northeast Minneapolis</b>							
Northeast	2,638	749	964	340	97	437	1,401
University	891	232	300	105	38	143	443
<b>Northeast Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>3,529</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1,844</b>
<b>South Minneapolis</b>							
Calhoun-Isles	1,086	206	451	93	46	139	590
Central	625	782	153	355	60	415	568
Longfellow	1,939	415	812	188	80	268	1,080
Nokomis	2,827	353	1,240	160	86	246	1,486
Phillips	1,866	1,840	391	835	91	925	1,316
Powderhorn	4,561	2,535	1,395	1,150	231	1,380	2,775
Southwest	3,246	169	1,422	77	55	132	1,554
<b>South Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>16,150</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,864</b>	<b>2,858</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>3,505</b>	<b>9,369</b>
<b>Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>26,307</b>	<b>11,733</b>	<b>9,421</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>15,895</b>
<b>Northwest Suburbs</b>							
Brooklyn Center	1,974	496	766	225	95	320	1,086
Brooklyn Park	5,193	804	2,009	365	174	538	2,547
Champlin	1,994	74	898	34	24	58	956
Corcoran	499	10	195	5	3	8	203
Crystal	1,555	146	711	66	45	111	822
Dayton	336	20	206	9	6	15	221
Golden Valley	1,169	54	528	24	25	49	577
Maple Grove	4,325	62	2,006	28	38	66	2,072
New Hope	1,295	174	531	79	44	123	654
Osseo	141	17	57	8	7	15	72
Robbinsdale	886	94	423	43	25	68	491
<b>Northwest Suburbs Total</b>	<b>19,573</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>8,421</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>9,791</b>



**PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 0 - 5 NEEDING LICENSED CHILD CARE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY BY JULY 1998**  
 Population of Children, Children Receiving AFDC and Number of Children Needing Licensed Child Care

Area	Children, Children Ages 0-5 Ages 0-5 Receiving AFDC		Number of Children Needing Licensed Child Care				
			In Families Currently Working	In AFDC Families	On BSE Waiting List	New Need	Total Need
<b>Minneapolis</b>							
<b>North Minneapolis</b>							
Camden	2,445	1,095	1,031	497	165	661	1,692
Near North	4,183	3,357	916	1,523	205	1,728	2,644
<b>North Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>6,628</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>4,336</b>
<b>Northeast Minneapolis</b>							
Northeast	2,638	749	964	340	97	437	1,401
University	891	232	300	105	38	143	443
<b>Northeast Mpls Total</b>	<b>3,529</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1,844</b>
<b>South Minneapolis</b>							
Calhoun-Isles	1,086	206	451	93	46	139	590
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Powderhorn	4,561	2,535	1,395	1,150	231	1,380	2,775
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<b>South Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>16,150</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,864</b>	<b>2,858</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>3,505</b>	<b>9,369</b>
<b>Minneapolis Total</b>	<b>26,307</b>	<b>11,733</b>	<b>9,421</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>15,895</b>
<b>Northwest Suburbs</b>							
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Robbinsdale	886	94	423	43	25	68	491
<b>Northwest Suburbs Total</b>	<b>19,573</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>8,421</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>9,791</b>

## **BUILDING ALLIANCES BETWEEN GRASSROOTS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**

Adapted from The Neighborhood Women's  
*Training Sourcebook*, June 1994  
pp. 136 - 140.

### **Two major problems complicating such alliances:**

- lack of equality of respect in these working relationships
- communication problems that result from having different styles, backgrounds and positions in life.

### **Grassroots Complaints:**

1. Most professionals(women and men) act like teachers with children and not like partners. They mistakenly think they know it all and do not know how to listen. They unconsciously patronize neighborhood people. This perpetuates grassroots women's low self esteem, resulting in hostility from the neighborhood women who then reject what professionals have to give.
2. They do not translate what they know into a language grassroots women can understand and do not notice when their use of language mystifies and shuts down grassroots women.
3. They do not lay out options, they decide for grassroots women what they should do.
4. They often fix problems and leave without teaching others how to fix them when the problems arise again.
5. They have inflexible viewpoints and often do not look at situations from a neighborhood point of view. They think things can only be done their way and they don't recognize the strengths and accomplishments of neighborhood organizations.
6. They are too expensive if paid. If unpaid, they are unwilling or unable to spend the necessary time with grassroots people to build trust and communication and to transfer skills.
7. Some professionals are arrogant, pull rank, and cannot take criticism. Some who have used their experience as the basis of articles, books or speeches have failed to share their writings with the neighborhood group, adequately acknowledge their debt to the group, or invite their comments before publication.
8. They tend to be blind to and fail to use grassroots women's real expertise because it has not been formally credentialized, or because it is not expressed in ways to which they are accustomed.
9. Those who are public agency representatives or political office holders sometimes play power games of divide and conquer, playing off local groups against each other, to deflect their own responsibility to their constituencies. Some have tried to co-opt leaders of local organizations by doing them special favors.
10. Some are more interested in protecting themselves or advancing their careers than in helping.

## **Professional Complaints:**

1. Grassroots women are more "process oriented" and professional women tend to be "product oriented." As a result, meetings with grassroots women can require more time than professional women (and men) can give or feel is necessary.
2. They have unrealistic ideas about the power professionals have in their institutions or what they can deliver. They fail to recognize that those institutions are usually dominated by men who often devalue the women who work there.
3. They fail to see that women in government or political office are often fighting uphill battles too. And even though they need to be kept accountable, they also need personal support and outside pressure from neighborhood women to make anything move. Often neighborhood women do not vote or are not even registered to vote.
4. They often fail to "do their homework," be reliable, responsible, or do what they said they would do. They tend to "turn off" become indignant, or drop out if they are held accountable. The "drop outs" may then lead opposing factions in the neighborhood.
5. They often show either excessive respect for, or mistrust of, the credentials held by professionals. This results in keeping professionals at a distance and a "we-they" relationship.
6. They forget that professional women need support too. Often they get little, if any, personal acceptance, appreciation, or emotional contact where they work, and these are some of the rewards they seek from working with neighborhood people.
7. They sometimes fail to mention the roles professional women played when they get publicity for successful activity. The professional then feels used and discarded. Professional women want a legitimate place in grassroots efforts and their contributions acknowledged.
8. They often fail to cultivate relationships with their funders, not keeping them informed and sending in sketchy reports, thus breeding mistrust and lessening chances for additional funding.

### **HAVING SAID ALL THAT, WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

Take the time, have the commitment, to developing relationships which nurture the vision, and forward action. Good linkages are not labor saving devices.

Establish working agreements so that expectations are jointly developed and understood. Clear mutual accountability is necessary.

Experiment -- we're all learning to live more equitably in a pluralistic community.

## **Challenges and Possibilities for Academic/Community Connections**

compiled by Ann Withorn

### **On the Academic Side:**

#### **Worst Fears of Working with the Community**

- will be forced into taking positions I can't defend
- my work will be discredited
- it will hurt my chances of getting tenure
- people will see me as a "dork" and I won't be able to communicate what I know
- I won't have the time or the language to support what I need to explain
- my work will have to be simplified so much as to be useless, "stupid," or intellectually embarrassing
- it will take up so much time that I can't do what I am trained to do
- the important questions that need to be discussed will never get to be discussed or worked on because people will want just to complain or tell their stories
- racial, class barriers will be too great for real interaction

#### **Best Hopes for Working with Community Folks**

- will be able to feel, and be, useful
- will be able to test out if what I think or found makes sense — will find out what is wrong with what I am doing
- will find out new things and will help improve my work and make it more helpful, and new subjects to research
- will feel that what I do matters
- will meet more interesting people than just academics and students

### **On the Community Side**

#### **Worst Fears of Working with Academics:**

- I won't understand what they say — they will make me feel stupid
- they won't respect my experience in the real world
- they will keep us off in the clouds and we won't be able to get anything done
- their goals will win, not ours — they will miss the race/culture differences
- they'll take our stories and use them for their research and we won't get anything from it
- they won't be any real help, but just take up time and not really listen

#### **Biggest Hopes for working with Academics**

- they will give us information we can use in the fight
- they will tell us about resources we can connect with for support
- they will be able to help us get our story out there, and not the usual picture of us
- they will help me find ways to go to school and get the education I need

## **Welfare Reform Contacts**

1. Minnesota Department of Human Services
  - Sheryl Lockwood phone: 215-1818  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
444 Lafayette Rd. North  
St. Paul, MN 55155
  - Jane Delage phone: 296-7571  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
444 Lafayette Rd. North  
St. Paul, MN 55155
2. Hennepin County
  - Robert Hagen phone: 348-7465  
Office of Planning and Development  
Hennepin County  
A-2308 Government Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0238
  - Suzanne Gaines (Mailcode 100) phone: 348-2005  
Hennepin County  
300 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55487
3. Minnesota Council of Nonprofits - Affirmative Options
  - Jason Walsch phone: 642-1904  
2700 University Ave. West, #250 fax: 642-1517  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1016
4. Urban Coalition
  - Allan Malkis phone: 348-8550  
2610 University Ave. West, Suite 201 fax: 348-2533  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1090
5. Children's Defense Fund
  - Marcie Jefferys or Diane Benjamin phone: 227-6121  
550 Rice St. Suite 205 fax: 227-2553  
St. Paul, MN 55103

6. Minneapolis Human Services Network - Phillips Community Futures Coalition

•Kari Neathery  
122 West Franklin Suite 320  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

phone: 870-0011  
fax: 870-0044

7. Star Tribune

•Jean Hopfensperger  
425 Portland Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55488-0002

phone: 673-4511  
fax: 673-4359

*Child Care and Welfare Reform*

8. Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning

•Deborah Swenson-Klatt  
390 Capitol Square Building  
550 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

phone: 297-5302

9. Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association

1628 Elliot Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-1657

phone: 341-1177  
fax: 341-4356

10. Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC)

•Carla Jacobson  
1600 E. Lake St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

phone: 721-0112, ext. 102  
fax: 721-0435

*Housing and Welfare Reform*

11. Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)

•Shirley Hendrickson  
Grant Administrator  
A1501 Government Ctr.  
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0151

phone: 348-4074  
fax: 348-9283

12. Elim Transitional Housing, Inc.

•Sue Watlov Phillips  
3989 Central Ave. N.E. Suite 565  
Minneapolis, MN 55421

phone: 788-1546  
fax: 788-1672

13. Minnesota Housing Partnership

•Kirsten Bansen  
122 Franklin Ave. West  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

phone: 874-0112

14. Family Housing Fund of Minneapolis and St. Paul  
Midwest Plaza West, Suite 1840  
801 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

phone: 375-9644  
fax: 375-9548

15. Jobs and Affordable Housing Campaign

•Thomas Watson  
Family and Children's Service  
414 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-1081

phone: 341-1613

*Food Shelves and Welfare Reform*

16. Minnesota Food Shelf Association

•Bettina Graupner  
1502 Nicollet Ave. Suite 5  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

phone: 870-9170  
fax: 870-9193

17. Urban Coalition

•Chia Vang  
2610 University Ave. West, Suite 201  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1090

phone: 348-8550  
fax: 348-2533

18. Center for Asians and Pacific Islanders (CAPI) Food Shelf

•Toua Yang  
310 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 133A  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

phone: 721-0122 / 825-4625

*Other Useful Resources*

19. Phillips Community Initiatives for Children (PCIC)  
2314 Elliot Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

phone: 871-0662  
fax: 870-0456

20. Project for Pride In Living (PPL)  
2516 Chicago Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

phone: 874-8511

21. American Indian OIC (AIOIC)  
•Dale Means  
1845 Franklin Ave. East  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
phone: 341-3358  
fax: 341-3766
22. Minneapolis American Indian Center/American Indian Community Partnership  
•Lyle IronMoccasin  
1530 Franklin Ave. East  
Minneapolis, MN  
phone: 333-0500  
fax: 879-1795
23. Ramsey County Human Services/Sister-to-Sister  
•Lynn Schellenberger  
450 Syndicate St. North, Suite 250  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
phone: 917-3324
24. Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans  
•David Zander  
200 University Ave. West, Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55103  
phone: 296-0538
25. Andersen Family and Community Resource Center  
2727 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
phone: 627-7001
26. Grandparents Raising Grandkids  
Connie Booth  
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota  
2414 Park Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
phone: 871-0221
27. Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis  
2507 Fremont Ave. N.,  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
phone: 588-2099
28. Institute on Race and Poverty  
411 Law Center  
299-19<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
phone: 625-8071  
fax: 624-8890